

One Dead, Nine Injured in Week-End Crashes



Christmas Greetings to All



TRUSTEES TO START EIGHTH NEW SCHOOL

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

36th YEAR—No. 51

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1950

12

24 PAGES

Wartime Babies Now School Age

Attempting to keep ahead of a high war-time local birth rate—perhaps the highest in the U. S., which is due to be felt in local schools in the fall, the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night ordered the initial step taken for the start of the city's eighth elementary school.

Also granted was authorization for school officials to proceed with the development of 11 classrooms and three kindergarten units for the new Hollywood Riviera School. The plan is to be developed to eventually provide for five additional classrooms and a multi-purpose unit.

Faced with an influx of kindergarten children who were born in 1946 at the rate of 27.6 per 1000 persons, the Board also ordered the investigation of procurement of additional school sites.

"Subdividers are building on lots faster than we can buy them," Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told the Board. "Unless we act now to procure sites at \$2500 to \$3000 per acre we soon will be forced with condemning and destroying houses and buying land for \$6000 to \$7000 per acre as they are now doing in Culver City and Arcadia."

The new school under consideration will be "moved-in" onto a site in the El Nido district at 18th street and Hawthorne boulevard. Although of a temporary nature...

(Continued on Page 2)

Four Youths Pitched Through Roof of Car

Pre-holiday traffic accidents took a heavy toll in Torrance last weekend with nine injured and one killed. Dead is Werner John Marcz, a 17-year old youth of 1441 West Carson.

Marcz died following a crash at 12:15 a.m. Sunday morning on Western avenue near 228th street. He was among four occupants hurled through the roof of a 1936 Ford sedan driven by Joseph Ulrich, also of 1441 West Carson street.

According to Police Captain Willard Haslam and Patrolman William Mitchell, the crash occurred as Ulrich attempted to pass another auto and drove into the unpaved center portion of Western avenue. The driver clipped the side of the other car and then lost control of the car. The auto left skid marks for 150 feet before turning over and rolling another 120 feet, coming to rest against the bank on the west side of the highway.

CUBAN INJURED

Injured also were Jack Charles Seibert, 17, also of the Carson street address and Pedro Monresa, 19, a Cuban merchant marine, and Ulrich. The quartet were returning from a dance in Torrance when the death car scraped the side of a car driven by James Cragg of Wilmington and went into its fatal slide.

In another accident three hours earlier, five persons were injured, two seriously, in a three-car crash in the residential area of Hollywood Riviera.

FIVE HURT
Injured were Lynetta Bowman, 32, and Frank Bowman, 38, both of 311 Calle De Andalucia, the latter with major injuries; John Arthur Bowman, 34, of Long Beach, Ellen Phipps, 40, of Long Beach, major injuries, and Madeline Chikak, 32, of Lynwood.

The accident occurred, according to reports filed by Torrance Police Officers Mervyn Porter, John Maestri, Don Hamilton, and Harvey Turentine, as Clyde Butter Jones, 46, of Redondo Beach was backing from a driveway onto Via Pasqual near Monte de Oro. A second car driven by Wallace D. Chikak, 27, had stopped to allow Jones to back out when a third car, driven by John Bowman, crashed into car number two sending it crashing into car number one. Neither Jones nor Chikak was injured.

The injured were taken to the hospital.

(Continued on Page 2)

Dimes Chairman Reappointed By County Leader

Mrs. Clara Conner, Torrance postmaster, was named for the second consecutive year, as chairman of the March of Dimes Campaign in Torrance this week by Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, chairman for Los Angeles County.

The reappointed chairman said yesterday she was preparing a list of committee chairmen and that the appointments would be ready to announce next week.

Mrs. Conner succeeded her late husband, C. Earl Conner, formerly Torrance postmaster, as head of the local March of Dimes Campaign. He served 12 years as chairman of the local drive and was actively engaged in the 1949 campaign when he died on February 3, 1949.



POSTMASTER CONNER Heads Dimes Campaign



PRE-HOLIDAY TRAGEDY . . . Driver Joseph Ulrich bends over the body of 17-year old Werner John Marcz who was killed when he was catapulted through the roof of a car in a crash on Western avenue near 228th street last Saturday night.

In the foreground lies a 19-year old injured Cuban sailor, the fourth member of the quartet injured in the fatal smashup. (Herald photo).

Reporters Are Not Miracle Men, They Just See Too Much

Have you ever noticed how few reporters or newspaper photographers have been involved in automobile accidents? It is not that reporters or photographers are possessed of any superior driving skill nor own specially equipped cars which keep them from having crashes.

There are few newsmen, however long they have been in the business or how hardened they have become to seeing tragedy, who do not pull away from a scene like that pictured above with the thought that it might have been they who were lying there spread-eagle on the street. Policemen, ambulance drivers, and accident investigators, too, need little reminding to take it easy on the highway.

Tragically enough the scene above will be repeated in many locations in the next two weekends to come. It is a scene that will make no one's Christmas merrier nor make the New Year a happier one.

Much has been said and written about careful and courteous driving—so much so that it hardly seems there is any more to be said. But if a few words, a simple reminder may save a life or prevent an injury, we believe the effort is well expended.

There will be many drivers on the streets this week-end, enroute from office parties and hurrying to get home to families, and who will be usurping the "right-of-way" privilege. It will be better to give the other driver the benefit of the doubt. It has been so pointedly stated that he may be dead wrong but that if you attempt to prove you are right, you may be just as dead as he is wrong. Give him plenty of room.

Other words of highway wisdom which come to mind at this time of year are the reminder, "if you drink, don't drive and if you drive, don't drink."

The entire staff and management of the Torrance Herald hope you have a safe and accident-free holiday season and wish you all a Merry Christmas.



ONLY IN CALIFORNIA . . . Here's one to send to the folks back east. It happened in Torrance markets this week and here is photographic proof. While market owner Hank Borg sells a Christmas tree to Mrs. Alta Searles, 25025 Cypress avenue, Mrs. Barbara Kell, 23101 Falena avenue, selects a box of grapefruit-sized strawberries for 33 cents a box. Yep, where else but in California would you be able to buy Christmas trees and strawberries at the same time? (Herald photo).

HEAD OF MEDICAL GROUP COLLAPSES

Dr. W. I. "Bill" Laughon, head of the Torrance Medical Group and an active member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, collapsed yesterday and was taken to the Torrance Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Complications following a recent tooth extraction is believed responsible for the doctor's condition. A close friend said yesterday that it was hoped he would be "on his feet" by Christmas.

Flames Destroy Furnishings In Pueblo Home

Fire which apparently was started by candles left burning on a statuette of the Virgin Mary destroyed the furnishings of the Pueblo home of Jessie C. Gonzales at 2103 West 203rd street last Monday afternoon.

The fire apparently started in a corner of the bedroom where a niece of Gonzales had kept her statuette, according to Captain Gene Walker of the Torrance Fire Department. Gonzales told firemen that he had warned his niece before that it was dangerous to leave the house with the candles burning.

There was no one in the house when the fire broke out. The furnishings in the front of the house were almost a total loss. Only the clothes in a rear closet escaped the flames—but even they were impregnated with heavy smoke and water.

Also lost in the fire, according to Gonzales, was a purse containing money, and other valuables. Silverware was taken out of the house by firemen.

The interior, walls, and ceiling . . . (Continued on Page 2)



BILLOWING SMOKE . . . Pouring from the home of Jessie C. Gonzales at 2103 West 203rd street in the Pueblo is the choking smoke which slowed Torrance firemen down when they tried to battle the blaze within. The interior of the house was virtually destroyed along with the furnishings in it. (Herald photo).